

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE THE GOSPELS OF MARK, MATTHEW AND LUKE AS EXPRESSIONS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXTS AND LITERARY FORMS, IN ORDER TO CRITICALLY ASSESS THEIR MEANING WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT. STUDENTS WILL EXAMINE THE VARIETY OF APPROACHES TO THE STUDY AND PRAYERFUL REFLECTION ON THESE GOSPELS, AND SURVEY THE IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL THEMES THAT ARISE FROM THEIR PRESENCE AND APPLICATION WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

GOAL

To provide insight into (and invite appreciation for) the person and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, as found in the synoptic gospels. Employing principles of the historical-critical method, this course will highlight both traditional as well as unconventional aspects of Jesus of Nazareth, herald of the messianic kingdom. Detailed consideration will be given to synoptic gospel themes & structures, as well as to a comparative analysis of texts & authors.

Objectives:

- 1) To introduce the world of contemporary biblical scholarship concerning Jesus of Nazareth, based upon appreciation of synoptic gospel texts, authors & the ecclesial communities that gave them birth
- 2) To trace through the life and career of that man from Galilee, highlighting themes & values most essential to his character and mission
- 3) To validate the historical & theological viability of the synoptic gospels as effective tools for Jesus remembrance and research
- 4) To dismantle beliefs & theories about the personal life & saving work of Jesus that diminish both humanity & divinity, and to offer in their place insights & approaches that inculcate the best of contemporary theology & its dialogical partners
- 5) To submit the ancient gospel texts to "the test of faith," that is, by existential methodology, to test their capacity for leading people of every time & place to understanding faith in the person, teachings & practice of Jesus as witnessed in the synoptic gospels

Requirements:

- 1) presence and participation in all scheduled classes for this course
- 2) completion of all assignments/projects as given throughout the course
 - a) assigned readings in text
 - b) project: select any Synoptic theme or text and present a 5 page typed report due on the last class session [3 pages on selected subject/1 page on why you selected the topic/1 page on contemporary correlation]
- 3) satisfactory completion of all examinations during the semester

Recommendations:

- 1) notebook for recording information during class presentations & assigned readings
- 2) research & reading of extra materials relevant to the course
- 3) attentive & participative class presence to foster learning attitude & aptitude

Grading:

25% class presence & participation
25% course project

25% mid-course exam
25% final exam

Pearl Harbor/Winter Evening 1999

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS SCHEDULE/READING/VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS</u>
I.	1/11	Introduction Quest for the Historical Jesus: Pre-history [817-829/55-70/74-93] Jesus of Nazareth I [Handout Material]
	1/18	<u>No Class</u> [Martin Luther King Day/Fr. Chaminade Day]
II.	1/25	Jesus of Nazareth II [Handout Material]
III.	2/1	Film: Jesus of Nazareth [Zefferelli]
IV.	2/8	Introduction to the Gospels & New Testament Canon [Text: 3-15/99-122] The Gospel of Mark: The Marcan Jesus [Text: 126-167]
	2/15	<u>No Class</u> [President's Day]
V.	2/22	The Gospel of Mark The Gospel of Matthew: The Matthean Jesus [Text: 171-223] Review
VI.	2/29	<u>Mid-Course Exam</u> The Gospel of Matthew The Gospel of Luke: The Lucan Jesus [Text: 225-275]
VII.	3/1	The Gospel of Luke Gospel Images of/Titles for Jesus of Nazareth
VIII.	3/8	The Parables of Jesus [Handout Material] Select Gospel Passages
IX.	3/15	Gospels in Contemporary Hands: The Historical Critical Method [Text: 20-46] Gospels in Public & Private Life: Spirituality of the Gospels
X.	3/22	Course Overview <u>Final Exam</u> (Papers due)

Class Meetings: Mondays: 1645-2055/Pearl Harbor

Text: An Introduction to the New Testament by Raymond Brown [Doubleday, 1997]

Teacher: Prof. David Anderson (926-5162)

Research Paper: 5 page reflection paper (double-spaced/typed or computer written) on any passage or group of passages from the Synoptic Gospels [Mark/Matthew/Luke]
a) three-page reflection on passage/s
b) one-page explanation for selection
c) one-page correlation to self or contemporary world